



The Sea Chanters, the 17-voice chorus of The United States Navy Band in Washington, D.C., perform a variety of music ranging from traditional choral music, including the sea chantey, to Broadway musicals. Organized in 1956 as an all-male chorus specializing in songs of the sea, the group was named by Admiral Arleigh Burke, then Chief of Naval Operations. Female voices were added in 1980 and the chorus' repertoire expanded. The Sea Chanters marked their 40th anniversary in May 1996 with a concert and clinic featuring guest conductor Dale Warland and the premiere of a work by Lloyd Pfautsch.

The Sea Chanters, under the leadership of Master Chief Musician M. Gretchen Ellrod and musical director, Chief Musician Keith D. Hinton, appear throughout the United States, and often perform at the White House, Vice President's house and for Washington dignitaries.

The Sea Chanters appeared with the National Symphony Orchestra for the nationally telecast 1998, 1997 and 1995 "National Memorial Day Concerts" directed by Erich Kunzel at the U.S. Capitol. In 1994 the chorus provided music at the funerals of former President Nixon in Yorba Linda, Calif., and former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis at Arlington National Cemetery. In addition, the Sea Chanters appeared in concert with The United States Navy Band at Carnegie Hall in March 1996. In July 1997 the group performed at the Texas Choral Directors Association conference in San Antonio. In 1998 they performed at the American Choral Directors Association Convention in Providence, R.I., and at the memorial service for Rear Admiral Alan B. Sheppard at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

The chorus performed aboard the USS Constitution in Boston, Mass. for the Constitution Bicentennial Celebration, and in 1988, the group gave its first performance for the annual Independence Day celebration at the Washington Monument grounds. A year later, they appeared on the nationally televised NBC special "From The Heart." The chorus also performed at the Kennedy Center Honors for Bob Hope, and appeared with the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, Virginia Symphony and Cincinnati Pops Orchestra.